

MATURE READERS

JEFF JOHNSON'S

# NURTURE the DEVIL

NUMBER ONE • 2.50 U.S. 2.95 CAN.





# NURTURE THE DEVIL



"MALICE WITHOUT GRACE"

**H**ELLO, AND WELCOME TO MY LITTLE HANDHOLD (NOT QUITE A NICHE), CARVED FROM THE SHEER FACE OF TEEMING COMICS YOU DOUBTLESS ENCOUNTER IN EVERY OUTING TO YOUR LOCAL COMIC STORE. IF YOU'VE PICKED THIS ONE OUT OF THE MASSES, THEN YOU'RE PROBABLY BEYOND HOPE. ONE OF THOSE DEVIANTS WHO ENJOYS THE PUZZLED STARES YOU GET WHEN TRYING TO EXPLAIN WHY COMICS ARE THE MOST EXCITING MEDIUM AVAILABLE TODAY. OR MAYBE I'M PROJECTING



MY OWN EXPERIENCES ONTO YOU... IN ANY CASE, WHATEVER THE TWISTED MOTIVATION FOR YOUR CHOICE OF READING MATERIAL, I HOPE MY EFFORTS SERVE YOU WELL.

**I** HAVE MANY PEOPLE TO THANK FOR HELPING ME DIG THIS GRAVE-- MY FAMILY, FOR SUPPORT; DEVLIN THOMPSON AND JIM STACY FOR HELPING ME IMMENSURABLY WITH MY MINI-COMICS; BILL MARRIOTT FOR LETTING

ME COMPLETE SOME OF THESE PAGES FOR COLLEGE CREDIT; GARY GROTH, TOM VERRE, AND THE REST OF FANTAGRAPHICS FOR PUBLISHING ME; ALL MY WONDERFUL CORRESPONDENTS FOR THEIR ENCOURAGEMENT; ROBERT BOYD, JULIE DOUCET, TERRY LABAN, PETER BAGGE, AND STEVE BEAUPRE FOR REVIEWS, PLUGS, AND PUBLICATION; AND MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, DEIRDRE GOODMAN, WHO HAS BEEN WITH ME SINCE THE BEGINNING, AND FOR WHOM, EVEN IF I HAD NO OTHER AUDIENCE, I

WOULD CONTINUE TO DRAW MY COMICS FOR AS LONG AS SHE COULD STAND TO READ THEM. THIS, ALONG WITH ALL OF MY EFFORTS, IS DEDICATED WITH LOVE TO HER.

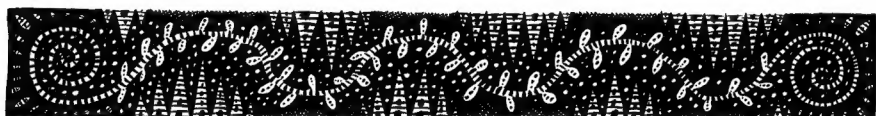
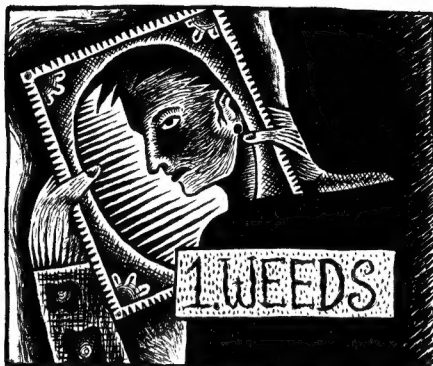
THIS SPACE WILL BE RESERVED FOR LETTERS NEXT ISSUE, SO WRITE ME:

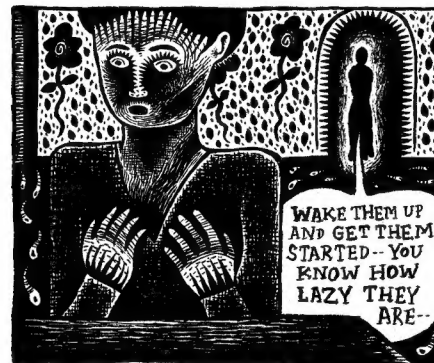
JEFF JOHNSON  
P.O. BOX 2932  
ATHENS, GA  
30612-0932  
ASK ABOUT MINI'S STILL AVAILABLE.



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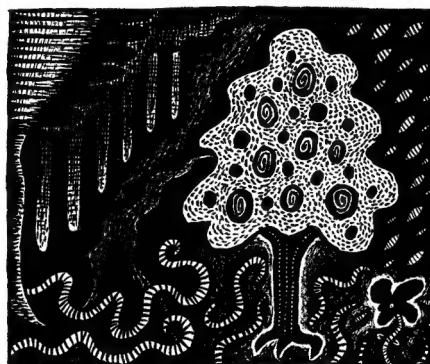
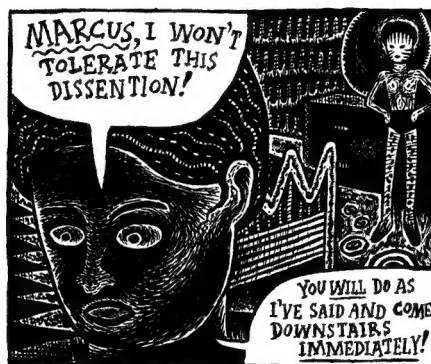






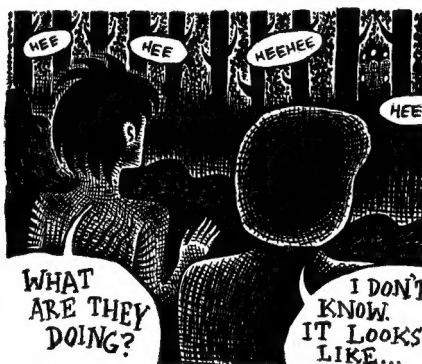
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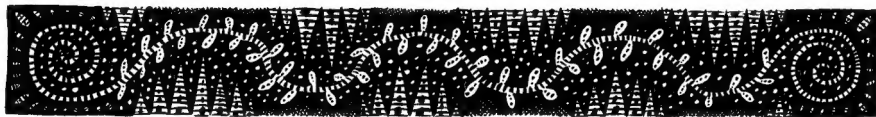


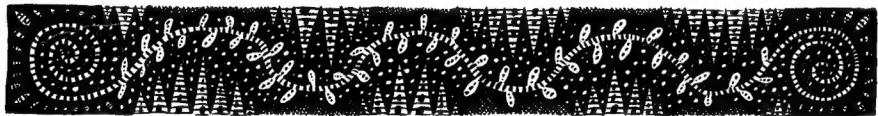
four





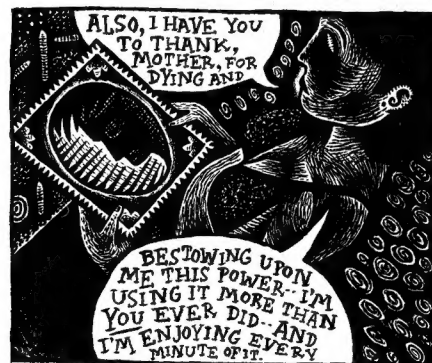
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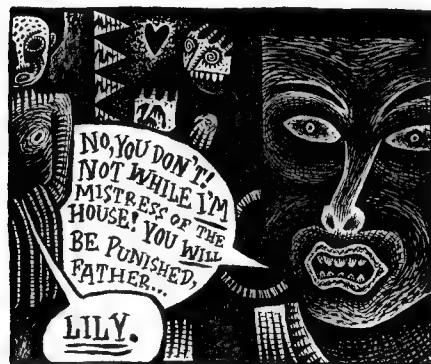




Eight

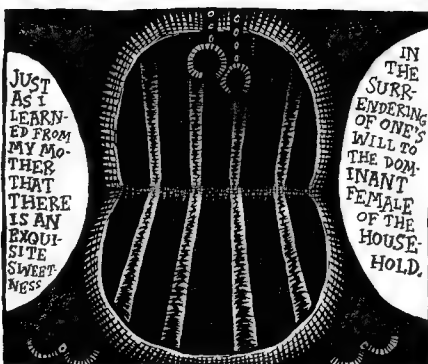
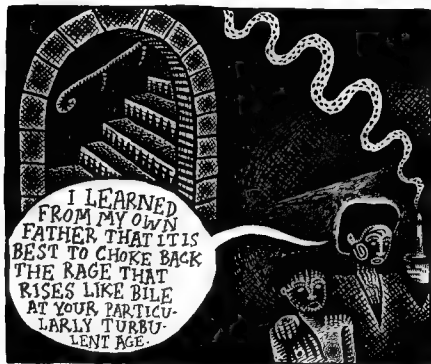




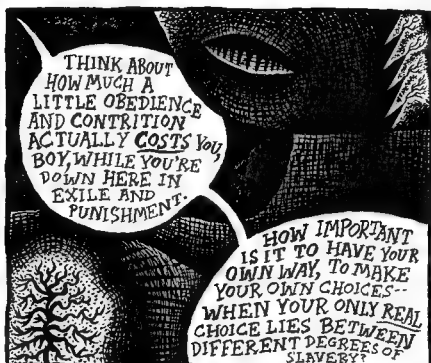


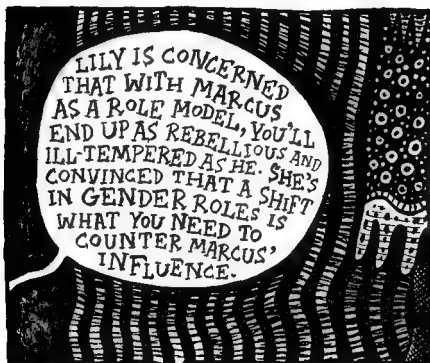
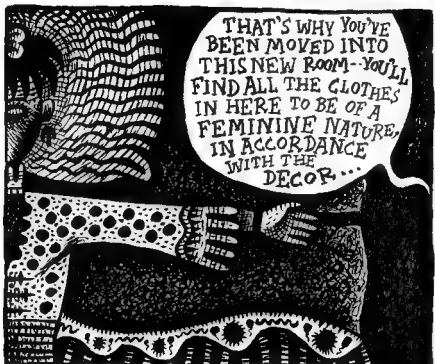
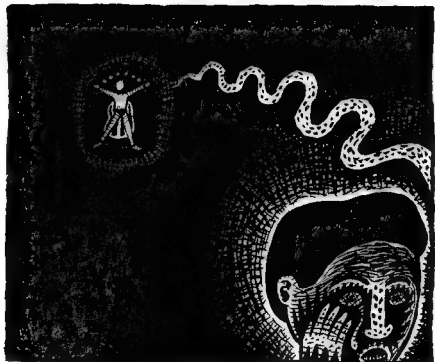
ten











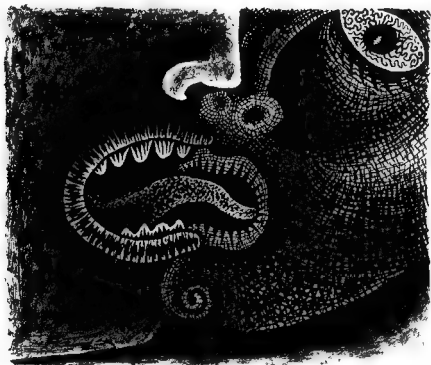
thirteen





fourteen





→ (continued next issue) .....fifteen



I AM "BIG HUNGRY"-- SHE IS "LITTLE SQUISHY"--

WE ARE--

BABIES

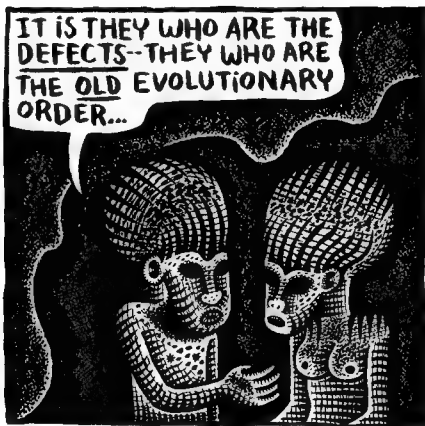
"HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
TO US"

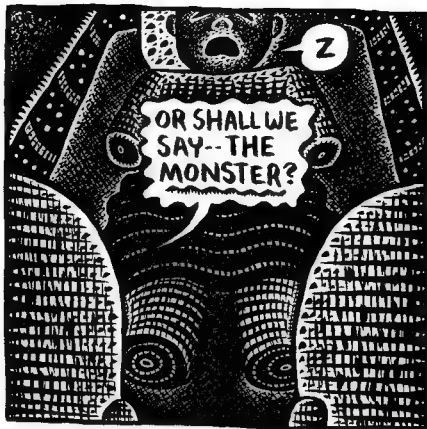
buy FEJ NozniHoj 3

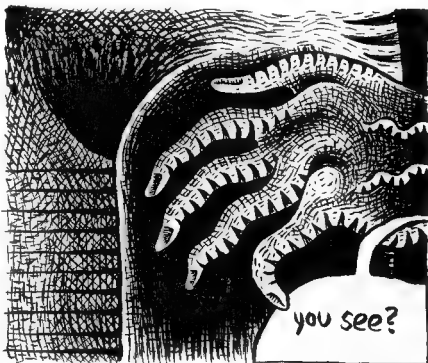
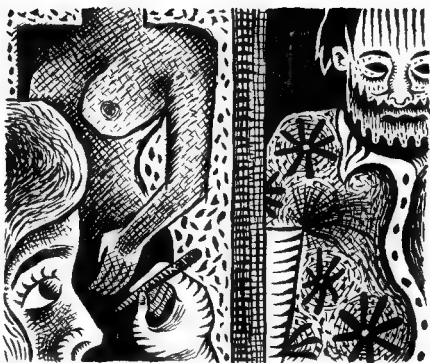
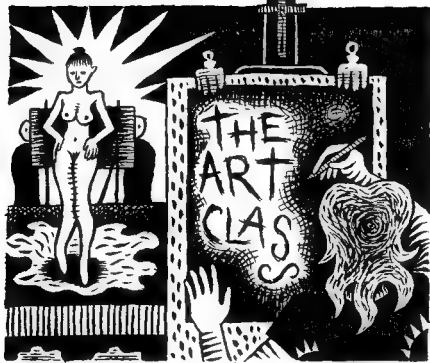
SOME SAY WE ARE  
PREMATURE-- NOT  
QUITE HUMAN...

BUT NO--WE ARE  
SIMPLY (WATCH IT,  
MORON)--  
SELF-  
ACTUALIZED.









one





I'll let you begin  
the critique,  
Carrie...

Carrie's  
my assis-  
tant, class.  
She has a  
good eye.



I like the  
energy on this  
one. It's loose and  
expressive.

Susan,  
isn't that  
yours?



This person  
is too tight and  
restrained.

Who owns  
that  
drawing?



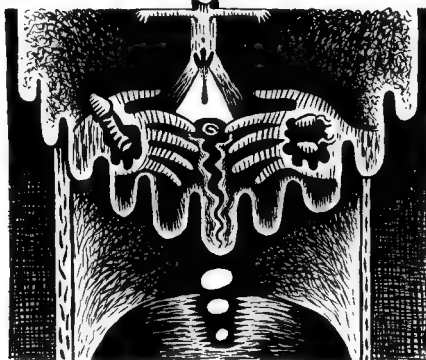
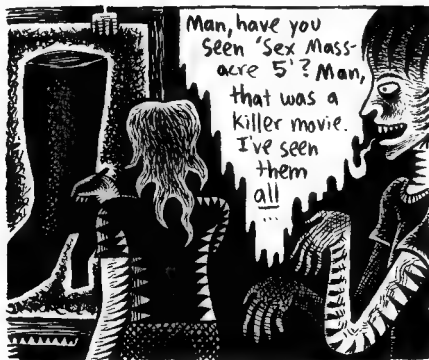
Next,  
you're  
going  
to  
draw  
my  
boots  
...



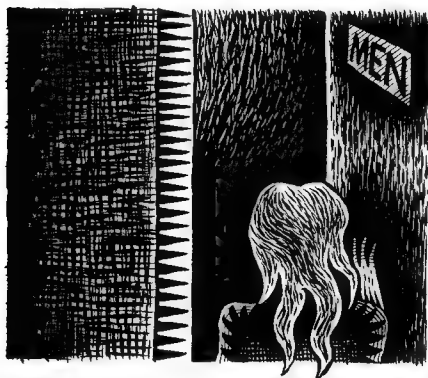
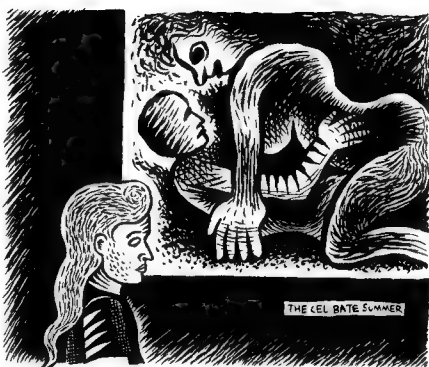
KILL ALL  
MEN

now get  
started.

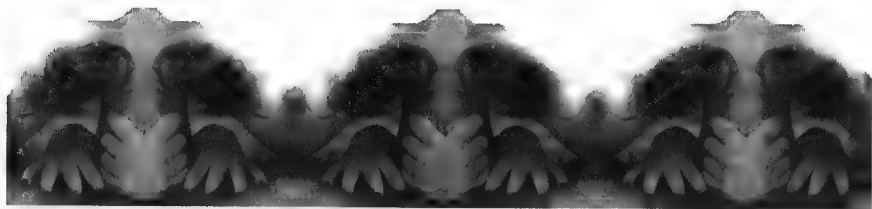
two

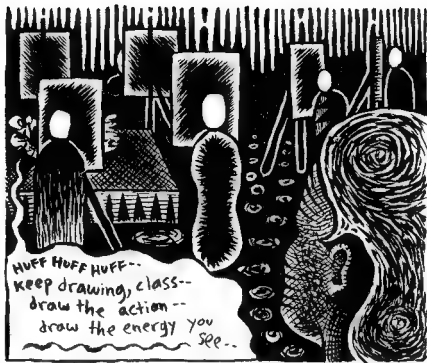






four





five

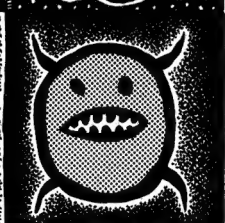
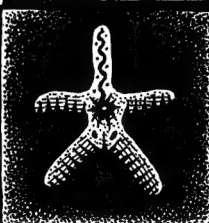
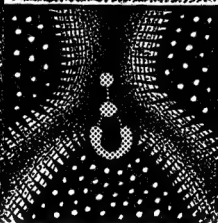
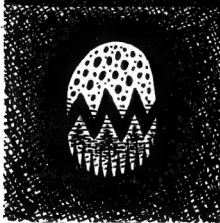
THE LOVELY COMPUTER-GENERATED BORDERS THAT ACCOMPANY THIS STORY WERE GRACIOUSLY SUPPLIED BY MR. LON HUBER, WHO HAS PUBLISHED A PAMPHLET OF THESE 'PORN DECONSTRUCTIONS' UNDER THE TITLE 'HUNGRY GHOST'. A MAILING ADDRESS WILL FOLLOW; HIS E-MAIL ADDRESS IS: buzz@crl.com.

NURTURE  
THE  
DEVIL

THE MESS  
IN MY ROOM  
BECAUSE IT  
ISN'T FINI-  
SHED

(NEVER  
WILL  
BE  
FINISHED)

PILES UP  
SCABS OF  
PAPERS,  
DUST,  
THUMB TACKS  
THAT

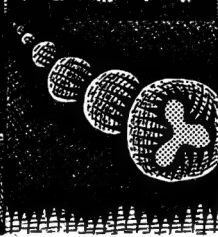
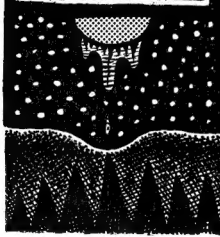


Cradle  
Me--

I FEED THE  
DEMON  
(nurture  
the  
devil)

AND IT LICKS  
MY LEGS,  
NECK,  
PALMS

WITH A  
POISON-  
IVY  
TONGUE--

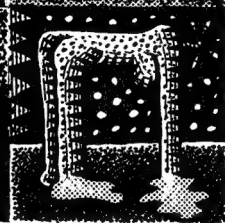
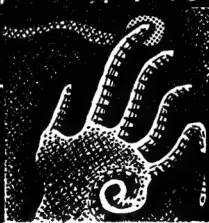
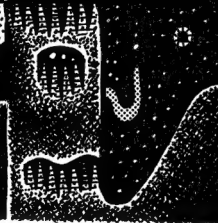


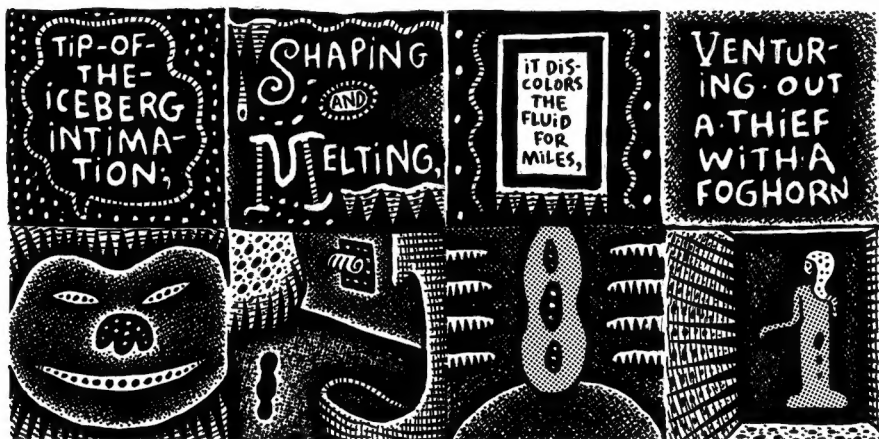
it stretches  
through  
my  
body and:

DANCES  
ON THE  
(( ENDS ))  
OF MY  
FINGERTIPS

Singing,  
or  
hearing  
a  
voice,  
or

REMEM-  
BERING  
A  
TUNE









NEXT: 3



